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Forty-fifth session
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 18 January 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 17 January 1991 by the Government of Ghana on the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf area.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 23, 35 and 69, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi N. AWOONOR
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement on the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf issued on 17 January 1991 by the Government of Ghana

The Government of Ghana wishes to express deep regret and sadness that developments in the Gulf area have resulted in the commencement of hostilities with the prospect of unprecedented loss of innocent lives and damage to property. This is a sad day for humanity. The hopes and aspirations of the international community for a new world order of peace, justice and equality are regrettably in jeopardy.

While the Government of Ghana appreciates the necessity to uphold international legality and respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, it still believes that it is not too late for diplomacy to be given a chance to avert further disaster. More particularly, it is open to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to save the people of Iraq from untold hardship and misery by agreeing to abide by United Nations Security Council resolutions. Meanwhile, the Government of Ghana calls upon Iraq and the allied forces to exercise restraint and, if possible, cease hostilities.

In terms of history, President Saddam Hussein must be seen as a product of frustration over centuries of marginalization of Arab interests. In the contemporary context, the problem of Palestine cries out for urgent solution. The Government of Ghana once again calls upon the international community, particularly the Western Powers, to do everything possible to convene as early as possible an international conference under United Nations auspices to resolve the outstanding problems of the Middle East. Only on such a foundation can peace return to the Middle East.